INSTA-BILLION

FACEBOOK IS SHELLING OUT $1 BILLION IN ITS LARGEST ACQUISITION EVER ... CAPTURE THIS MOMENT, STARTUPS, BECAUSE ZUCKERBERG SAYS IT'S LIKELY A ONE-OF-A-KIND EVENT PAGE 12

WINNIPEG metro®

Tuesday, April 10, 2012

News worth sharing.

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Hundreds of bank accounts skimmed by fraudsters

More than 600 accounts were targeted by fraudsters at the Assiniboine Credit Union, and there may be other bank accounts, too.

BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Skim pickings.
Winnipegger says upwards of $700 was taken from account

SHANE GIBSON
shane.gibson@metronews.ca

Winnipeggers should double check their bank statements this week after criminals used a skimming device to steal debit-card information from a number of Assiniboine Credit Union (ACU) customers over the weekend.

Tara Everett, 21, said she and her boyfriend are "unnerved" after noticing hundreds of dollars from her partner's ACU account had been withdrawn from a bank on the other side of the world Sunday.

"Transactions showed several withdrawals from banks in Malaysia, Quebec and different places we've never been," Everett told Metro Monday morning.

"My boyfriend and I diligently check our account for activity ... so stuff like this, we almost expect it to happen."

Everett said ACU told her boyfriend between five and 10 withdrawals were made from his chequing account as early as Monday morning, totalling about $700.

Randa Stewart, vice-president of marketing and communication with ACU, confirmed about 600 of their customers were affected over the weekend, and all have since been notified.

Stewart said criminals used a skimming device, likely attached to a privately run ATM or a store's debit machine, to copy customers' information from their debit card's magnetic stripe and quickly used that information to wipe out accounts before the institution had time to react.

She noted the scam likely hit customers of other credit unions and banks as well.

"It's all over the place, its not just Assiniboine," she said. "We can see when a card has been compromised and we've proactively contacted our members to let them know, and help them get their cards and PIN numbers changed.

"Nobody will lose money on this, we have a 100 per cent guarantee."

All of ACU's debit cards now use chip technology instead of magnetic stripes, which Stewart said greatly decreases the chances of being defrauded by skimming devices.

No price hike for pay phones

MTS Allstream says it has no plans to raise the price of local pay-phone calls despite a request from Bell Canada and Bell Aliant to the CRTC PAGE 4

No grand jury for Trayvon

A special prosector will now decide whether to charge the shooter of unarmed teen Trayvon Martin PAGE 8

Will a Brit oust Bieber?

British teen Conor Maynard has gone from uploading tunes on YouTube to collaborating with Pharrell Williams on a debut album PAGE 14

Shrimp with fettuccine

Spice it up with chili-roasted garlic PAGE 17

ARE YOU NEARING RETIREMENT?

If you are within 1-2 years of retiring, and are part of a DEFINED PENSION PLAN, you need to know and consider all of your options! Do you know what is available for you and your family? Do you have a written plan detailing your future income? Are you protected from outliving your money? We invite you to attend a complimentary information session to find out all the alternatives available to you, and have all of your questions answered.

GET ALL THE FACTS:
Thursday, April 19th, 6:30 - 7:30pm
200 Waterfront Drive, Main Floor Boardroom

SPEAKERS: JASON FRY, CFP WITH GUESTS
Financial Planning Advisor, Wellington West Financial Services Inc.
RSVP: jfry@wellwest.ca or 204.920.7925

WELLINGTON WEST Financial Services Inc.

Seating is limited and assigned on a first come first serve basis.The information contained herein is derived from sources which are believed to be reliable but Wellington West Financial Services Inc. (WWFS) makes no representation that this information is accurate or complete. The comments contained herein represent the opinions of the author and should in no way be construed as being official or unofficial policy of Wellington West Financial Services Inc. C6897

1 NEWS

On the web

Like a Rolling Stone

At the New York launch of his exhibition Faces, Time and Places, which features his own paintings, guitarist Ronnie Wood talks about the Rolling Stones, his solo projects and art versus music. Watch at metronews.ca

Quick thinking

Students in Washington state stopped a school bus on Monday after the driver lost consciousness, officials say. One seventh grader says he grabbed the wheel while others attempted CPR. Watch at metronews.ca

Mobile news

Considering what happened to the Titanic, it's curious that so many people are fascinated by what its passengers ate. Scan for the full story.

Jets' first season good for retailers' bottom lines

Getting in gear. Popularity of hockey team translates into big business for city restaurants and sporting-goods stores

BERNICE PONTANILLA
bernice.pontanilla@metronews.ca

There's no doubt about it, the Jets' first season back in Winnipeg was a big win for local retailers.

And it has also changed the way Winnipeggers view downtown, said Nat, kitchen manager at Moxie's in the MTS Centre.

"A lot of people who didn't come downtown started coming back," said Nat, who didn't want his last name published.

Nat said the restaurant had big turnouts, even for the Jets' road games.

Zak Rubin, retail general manager for River City Sports, said only one word can describe what the Jets' return meant for his business.

"Phenomenal," he said. "It's been better than anybody could expect — it's hard to put into words."

Rubin said there was a huge change in the demographics of the customers coming into the store — more women of all ages and more grandparents, especially during the Christmas season.

In addition to the four locations in Winnipeg, River City Sports also has a store in Calgary and one in Regina.

"They're constantly asking for more Jets stuff," said Rubin. "We have over 1,200 different Jets items and a lot of them we're already sold out of, from Chap Stick to running shoes."

Rubin said the off-season is an unknown for River City, since it's the Jets' first in more than 15 years, so he doesn't know whether sales will continue at the same pace.

Retailers put in orders six to eight months in advance, which means River City will be ready for the fall.

"I can't wait for next season, it can't come soon enough," said Rubin. "But until then I have the Bombers."

Zak Rubin, retail general manager at River City Sports, said his store sells over 1,200 different Jets items, including running shoes and glasses. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Local teen wins world debating contest

Ryan Sherbo, left, and Ryan Pistorius. ALYSSA MCDONALD/FOR METRO

A Winnipeg teenager has been named the world leader in debate and public speaking for high school students.

Grade 12 St. John's-Ravenscourt (SJR) student Ryan Pistorius won first overall in the World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championship in Brisbane, Australia, competing against more than 80 students from 16 countries.

"It was a lot of fun actually speaking. That feeling at the end, once you finish your speech, is fantastic," said Pistorius.

The championship included debates, which matched two students, usually from different countries, as well as impromptu speaking and a prepared persuasive speech. Pistorius focused his speech on micronutrients as a solution for malnutrition.

Pistorius competed against 14 other students from across Canada, including SJR Grade 11 student Ryan Sherbo, who placed third in the national competition held at their school in February and 11th at the worlds.

"I enjoy the speaking, debating and preparation. I think the best part of it was watching it all come together," said Sherbo, who plans to compete next year in hopes of going to the world championship in South Africa.

The two students spent two weeks touring Australia before the five-day event starting on March 29. Winnipeg's SJR students have won the top prize 14 times in the past 25 years.

ALYSSA MCDONALD/FOR METRO

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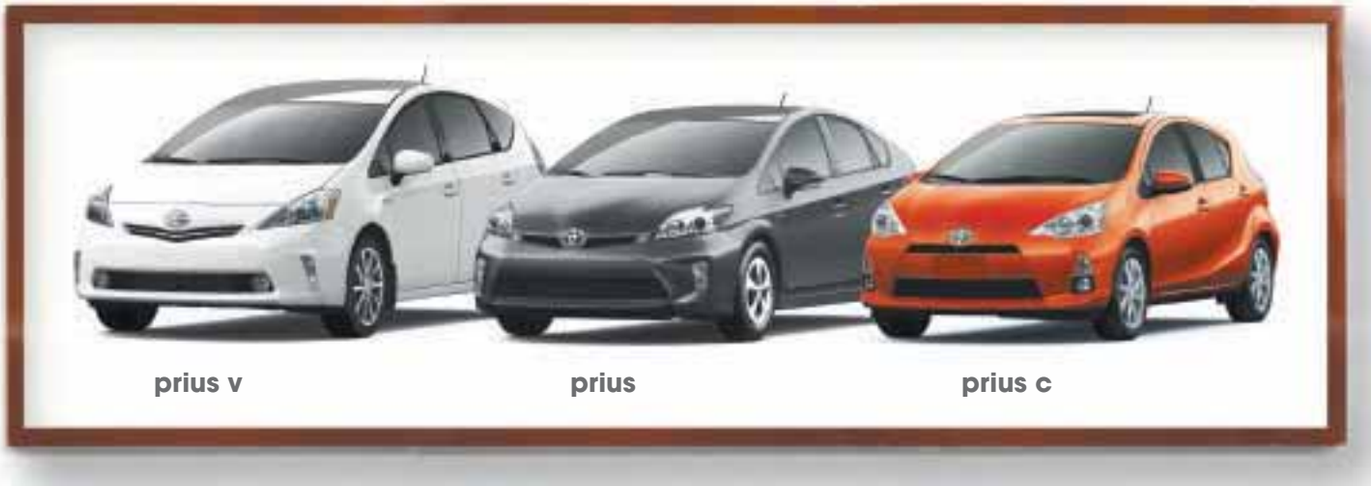

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*no purchase necessary. contest closes May 13, 2012. to register and for full contest details visit www.metronews.ca/pickyourpriuscontest.

No parking

Spring cleanup gets underway

City of Winnipeg crews will begin a major cleanup of city streets, sidewalks and back lanes to remove the sand accumulated over the winter. Temporary "no parking" signs will be put up on the streets. METRO

Tasers

Police searching for lost cartridge

Winnipeg police say a member has lost a Taser cartridge somewhere in St. James.

Sometime during the day on Sunday, said police, a cartridge in its carrying case dislodged from a police officer's service belt.

A Taser gun with cartridge.

The officer was on duty.

The electronic control device unit was not lost, but the cartridge could be harmful if carried in a pocket. METRO

North End

Police grappling with several stabbings

Winnipeg police were on the scene in the North End Monday morning after three reported stabbings.

One happened in the back lane between Redwood and Aberdeen avenues at the corner of Andrews Street. The other two happened in the 400 block of Boyd Avenue and the 200 block of Powers Street.

Two adult males and one teen male were stabbed in the upper body in the separate incidents, which police said appear to be related. All three were taken to the Health Sciences Centre in stable condition. Two men were taken into custody. ELISHA DACEY/METRO

Three stabbings happened in the North End Monday. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

First weekday for buses on all-new rapid-transit route excites, confuses passengers

Full day. Winnipeg Transit Authority says there's still a ways to go to educate riders on the new system

ALYSSA MCDONALD
winnipeg@metronews.ca

Rapid transit had its first full weekday schedule on Monday, and while bus riders were excited to try out the system, many needed some help to figure it out.

"Where does this bus stop?" Angie Curie asked the driver as she stepped onto the rapid-transit bus for the first time. "I need to go to Confusion Corner."

The driver assured her the Osborne Street station is only a two-minute walk from her regular route.

As Currie waited for the bus to leave the University of Manitoba station, three more people boarded and asked if the bus would stop at specific locations.

"A lot of people are asking questions. Most people just need a little help," a transit worker told Metro Winnipeg.

The workers were handing out pamphlets and answering questions to confused passengers all day and will be at rapid-transit stations for the next two weeks, he added, asking that his name not be used.

Passenger Sarmad Abbasi asked a transit worker the best way to get downtown.

"It's still confusing," said Abbasi, looking at the rapid-transit map. "But we will get used to it."

For many people like Curie and Abbasi, who did not take up the free-transit offer last Thursday, Monday was their first time on the new system.

"I'll take anything that is quick to get home," Curie said while waiting for the bus to leave. "Come on, let's see how fast you go."

Patrons gather around a route map as a transit operator helps them interpret it. ALYSSA MCDONALD/FOR METRO

Overheard:

"I wasn't sure I was on rapid transit until we hit the corridor. It seemed like a regular bus route until we started going faster."

"I tried (rapid transit) yesterday but I phoned first to figure out where I was going."

"It was fantastic this morning. I got to work so fast."

"It's a faster ride but I live on River and Osborne so it's a further walk."

No plans to raise pay-phone prices, says MTS

MTS Allstream has no plans to up the cost of making local calls at pay phones in Manitoba, as Bell Canada and Bell Aliant make a bid to the CRTC to increase their rates by as much as 100 per cent. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

MTS Allstream says it has no plans to increase the price of making local phone calls at Manitoba pay phones as another Canadian telecom company looks to jack up the cost by 100 per cent.

Bell Canada and Bell Aliant submitted a joint application to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission in mid-January to approve a pay-phone rate increase to a maximum of $1 for local calls and up to $2 for credit-card calls.

Sylvie Houghton, manager of corporate communications with MTS Allstream, says the Manitoba-based telecom company is not planning a similar move here.

"I can't predict the future, but obviously I can tell you we have no plans at this time to raise pay-phone rates," she told Metro Monday. "We haven't asked the CRTC to make a price increase to public pay phones."

A spokesperson from Bell told the Toronto Star that, if approved, the increased revenue would go toward the "investment required to keep pay phones operating," noting the company needs to offset "significant capital expenditures" in the coming years as Bell upgrades its telephones to accept Canada's new steel one-dollar coin being launched this spring.

Houghton said a portion of the income brought in through the current 50-cent cost of using a pay phone in Manitoba goes to maintenance and service repairs, but wouldn't speculate on how they're able to maintain costs while Bell Canada and Bell Aliant needs to boost revenues.

"I wouldn't be able to compare their business plan with our business plan," she said.

"It's obviously different provinces, different business plans and different providers."

The cost of making a local call at MTS Allstream pay phones jumped from 25 cents to 50 cents in June of 2007. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

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MOTORING 2012

HWY: 5.7L/100KM
CITY: 8.7L/100KM
Optima SX Turbo shown

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$2,199 down payment. Offer based on 2012 Optima LX M/T and includes delivery, destination and fees of $1,939 and **$1,000** lease savings.*

DARE TO COMPARE	2012 KIA OPTIMA LX A/T	2012 Honda Accord SE A/T	2012 Toyota Camry LE A/T
Horsepower (hp)	200	177	178
Torque (lb.-ft.)	186	161	170
Automatic Transmission	6 Speed	5 Speed	6 Speed

2012 SORENTO

7 PASSENGER SEATING AVAILABLE

TOP SAFETY PICK 2012 INSURANCE INSTITUTE FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY

Sorento SX shown

0% FINANCING APR FOR UP TO 60 MONTHS**

Own it from $413 per month for 60 months with a $2,600 down payment.
Offer includes delivery, destination and fees of $1,784 and **$1,000** loan savings‡.
BASED ON A PURCHASE PRICE OF $28,379.

DARE TO COMPARE	2012 KIA SORENTO LX AT FWD (4-CYL)	2012 Honda CR-V FWD LX 2WD (4-CYL)	2012 Ford Escape 2.5L XLT FWD (4-CYL)
Horsepower (hp)	191	185	171
Torque (lb.-ft.)	181	163	171
Towing Capacity (lbs)	1,650	1,499	1,499
Overall Interior Volume (L)§	2,987	2,949	2,818
17" Alloy Wheels	✓	✗	✗

HWY: 6.2L/100KM
CITY: 9.5L/100KM

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MOTORING 2012

Rio5 SX shown

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$1,500 down payment. Offer includes delivery, destination and fees of $1,839 and **$500** lease savings.

DARE TO COMPARE	2012 KIA RIO 5DR LX M/T	2012 Toyota Yaris LE M/T	2012 Ford Fiesta S M/T
Horsepower (hp)	138	106	120
Torque (lb.-ft.)	123	103	112
Fuel Economy - HWY	4.9L/100km	5.2L/100km	5.1L/100km
Power Windows	✓	✗	✗
Steering Wheel Audio Controls	✓	✗	✗
Heated Sideview Mirrors	✓	✓	✗

HWY: 4.9L/100KM
CITY: 6.6L/100KM

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Prices do not include dealer administration fees ($399 to $699), licensing, PPSA or applicable taxes.

Offer(s) available on select new 2011/2012 models through participating dealers to qualified customers who take delivery by April 30, 2012. Dealers may sell or lease for less. Some conditions apply. Offers are subject to change without notice. See dealer for complete details. Vehicle images shown may include optional accessories and upgrades available at extra cost. All offers exclude licensing, registration, insurance, other taxes and down payment (if applicable). Other dealer charges may be required at the time of purchase. Other lease and financing options also available. †Optima 3 Payments On Us offer is available on approved credit to eligible retail customers who finance or lease a new 2011/2012 Optima or Optima Hybrid from a participating dealer between April 9 – April 15, 2012. Eligible lease and purchase finance (including FlexChoice) customers will receive a cheque in the amount of 3 payments (excluding taxes) to a maximum of $400/month. Lease and finance (including FlexChoice) purchases are subject to approved credit. Customers will be given a choice between up to $1,200 reductions from the selling/leasing price after taxes or dealer can issue a cheque to the customer. Some conditions apply. See your dealer for complete details. **0% purchase financing is available on select 2012 Kia models on approved credit (OAC). Terms vary by model and trim, see dealer for complete details. Representative financing example based on 2012 Sorento LX (S87SBO) with a selling price of $28,379 (includes delivery and destination fees of $1,650, other fees of $34, OMVIC Fee, Environmental Fee and A/C tax ($100, where applicable)) financed at 0% APR for 60 months. Monthly payments equal $415 with a down payment/equivalent trade of $2,600. Cost of borrowing is $0 for a total obligation of $28,379. License, insurance, applicable taxes, variable dealer administration fees (up to $699), PPSA, and registration fees are extra. Financing example excludes $1,000 loan savings (see below) that is deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. ‡Loan savings for 2012 Kia Sorento LX AT (S87SBO) is $1,000 and is available on purchase financing only on approved credit (OAC). Loan savings varies by model and trim and are deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes. Offer is transferable within same household only (must provide proof of address). Limit 1 offer per customer or household. Certain restrictions apply. See dealer for details. ◂Based on 2012 Optima LX M/T vs 2012 Honda CR-V FWD LX 2WD (4-CYL). 2012 Kia Sorento awarded the Top Safety Pick by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. Visit www.iihs.org for full details. ^Highway/city fuel consumption of these vehicles may vary. These estimates are based on Transport Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the Government of Canada's *Fuel Consumption Guide*. Your actual fuel consumption will vary. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. Reproduction of the contents of this material without the expressed written approval of Kia Canada Inc. is prohibited. All information is believed to be accurate, based on information available at the time of printing. Information sourced from independent third-party research. Kia is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.

Transgender model tells story in TV interview

Reinstated. Vancouver's Jenna Talackova allowed to compete in Miss Universe Canada, says Donald Trump

Miss Universe contestant Jenna Talackova has a boyfriend and hopes to have two kids some day, but didn't initially tell him she was born male, the transgender Canadian beauty queen said Monday.

In an interview with ABC Television's Good Morning America, Talackova said she and her boyfriend of two-and-a-half years needed to get to know each other as friends before she told him about her sex-change procedure.

"Of course I had to let him know," Talackova said.

"He was very supportive, very accepting. He saw me for who I was."

Jenna Talackova, left, poses with ABC's Barbara Walters in New York. HEIDI GUTMAN/ABC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Talackova was asked whether she wants to have children. She replied, without elaborating, "Yes, I want to have two children."

Talackova, 23, had already made the Miss Universe Canada final before pageant organizers unleashed a wave of global media attention last month by disqualifying her on the basis she had to be a "naturally born" female.

Pageant owner Donald Trump finally stepped in and overruled that decision, reinstating her ahead of the May 19 Miss Universe Canada contest.

High-profile American lawyer Gloria Allred said Trump did the right thing by allowing Talackova to stay in the competition, because the disqualification was simply wrong, something that should be recognized globally.

"We wanted Donald Trump to step up and be a leader in this battle for equality (and) we're very happy that he has conceded that rule does violate the laws of Canada and of the United States," Allred said.

Trump appeared to agree with that position last week, saying it wouldn't be fair to allow transgender contestants to compete only in certain countries.

Talackova, of Vancouver, underwent sex-change surgery at age 19. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Thousands gather for Vimy ceremony

Gunner Joe Foster, of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment, plays Last Post during a Vimy Day ceremony at Victory Square in Vancouver on Monday. In France, thousands of students carrying Canadian flags and banners paid silent tribute to nearly 3,600 fallen countrymen. An estimated 5,000 students braved persistent rains during a slow march that covered the two kilometres from France's Vimy Ridge Memorial to a pair of cemeteries where Canada's war dead are buried. Gov. Gen. David Johnston, Veterans Affairs Minister Steven Blaney, and other Canadian and French dignitaries were on hand for the ceremony. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Next question

Expert asks: What can the F-35s do?

An expert who's tracked the controversial F-35 stealth-fighter program says the Canadian government is not going far enough — and should conduct a thorough audit of what the new jet can and cannot do.

Winslow Wheeler, of the Washington-based Centre for Defence Information, says the debate following last week's auditor general report needs to move beyond the eye-popping cost and muddied procurement process.

The Harper government last week committed to reviewing the acquisition and sustainment costs of the F-35, among other things.

Wheeler, who's testified before Parliament and spent years working for the U.S. General Accounting Office, says auditor general Michael Ferguson's report was actually tame, and what's needed now is an independent, fact-based analysis of the claims made by the manufacturer. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Diamond Jubilee. Number of applications overwhelms Canadian Heritage: Report

A new document shows the Department of Canadian Heritage was flooded with applications for money to throw community celebrations to mark the Queen's 60th year on the throne.

Companies, schools, municipalities and other groups can apply to a $2-million pot for money to host their own Diamond Jubilee parties.

But a report by the Diamond Jubilee advisory committee said that by last fall, the department had already received more party pitches than it could pay for.

The report did not say how many of those eligible proposals would actually be funded. Nor did it give any examples of the celebrations proposed.

The government has not disclosed which groups received Diamond Jubilee money.

A spokesman for Heritage Minister James Moore said roughly half the funding has so far been allocated. The rest will be disbursed later this year.

The head of the Monarchist League of Canada attributed the large volume of applications to a renewed interest in the monarchy and the Royal Family.

"A lot of it has to do with the royal wedding of last year," Robert Finch said. "But equally, people have started to really recognize that the Queen herself is worthy of the celebration."

The government is spending a total of $7.5 million on the festivities. That includes $2 million for the community celebrations and $3.7 million for 60,000 special medals for civic-minded Canadians. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Costly celebration

Canadian Heritage received 232 proposals in the first round, of which 180 were eligible for funding.

- Seventy-eight proposals came from Ontario. Another 50 came from Atlantic Canada and 49 came from British Columbia, Alberta and the Yukon. Thirty-nine came from Saskatchewan, Manitoba, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Only 16 came from Quebec.

Investigation. Canadian navy may be linked to endangered orca's death

The corpse of a young killer whale whose death may be linked to Canadian war games has prompted an investigation by U.S. authorities.

The body of the southern resident orca — an endangered species in the United States — was discovered on Long Beach in Washington state in February, just days after HMCS Ottawa conducted sonar training exercises in the waters off Victoria.

A preliminary examination indicated significant trauma around the head, chest and right side of the orca known as L112, but results of necropsy and pathology tests and a scan of the animal's head are incomplete. Just hours after the navy sonar tests were heard, southern resident killer whales were spotted in the same area in the Haro Strait that divides Canada and the United States.

The law-enforcement office of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, has launched an investigation into the death. Brian Gorman, with NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, said investigators haven't made a connection between the naval exercise and the death of the whale. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The body of a three-year-old female killer whale washed up on Long Beach, Wash., in February. Experts are trying to find if sonar testing by a Canadian naval ship may have contributed to the death. CASCADIA RESEARCH/CONTRIBUTED

Quebec quarrel

Massive student protest planned

Students are fighting Quebec's plan to raise tuition by nearly 75 per cent over five years — a jump that would still leave provincial tuition among the lowest in Canada.

Protest organizers also say they are planning a massive demonstration in Montreal for this Saturday — to mark the ninth anniversary of Jean Charest's election as premier on April 14, 2003. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alleged stalker

Quebecer arrested near actor's home

New York City police are confirming they have arrested a Quebec woman for allegedly stalking actor Alec Baldwin.

A police spokesman says Genevieve Sabourin was arrested last night at Baldwin's Manhattan home. She was arrested and charged with aggravated harassment and stalking. Sabourin has not yet been arraigned. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Report

European fungus killed bats

The mysterious deaths of millions of bats in Canada and the United States over the past several years were caused by a fungus that hitchhiked from Europe, scientists reported Monday.

Experts had suspected that an invasive species was to blame for the die-off from "white nose syndrome." Now there's direct evidence the culprit was not native to North America. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pickton trial

Surviving sex worker to testify

A former sex worker who survived an attack on Robert Pickton's farm five years before he was arrested is set to testify at the public inquiry into the case in Vancouver.

The hearings are examining the failed police investigation into Pickton, but also the Crown's decision not to prosecute Pickton for the 1997 attack. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Optima SX Turbo shown

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Horsepower (hp)	200	177	178
Torque (lb.-ft.)	186	161	170
Automatic Transmission	6 Speed	5 Speed	6 Speed
Fog Lights	✓	✗	✗
Power Driver Seat	✓	✓	✗
Heated Seats	✓	✗	✗

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Kia's new Customer Friendly Pricing includes delivery and destination fees and all mandatory government levies.
Prices do not include dealer administration fees ($399 to $699), licensing, PPSA or applicable taxes.

Offer(s) available on select new 2011/2012 models through participating dealers to qualified customers who take delivery by April 30, 2012. Dealers may sell or lease for less. Some conditions apply. Offers are subject to change without notice. See dealer for complete details. Vehicle images shown may include optional accessories and upgrades available at extra cost. All offers exclude licensing, registration, insurance, other taxes and down payment (if applicable). Other dealer charges may be required at the time of purchase. Other lease and financing options also available. ◆Optima 3 Payments On Us offer is available on approved credit to eligible retail customers who finance or lease a new 2011/2012 Optima or Optima Hybrid from a participating dealer between April 9 - April 15, 2012. Eligible lease and purchase finance (including FlexChoice) customers will receive a cheque in the amount of 3 payments (excluding taxes) to a maximum of $400/month. Lease and finance (including FlexChoice) purchases are subject to approved credit. Customers will be given a choice between up to $1,200 reductions from the selling/leasing price after taxes or dealer can issue a cheque to the customer. Some conditions apply. See your dealer for complete details. **0% purchase financing is available on select 2012 Kia models on approved credit (OAC). Terms vary by model and trim, see dealer for complete details. Representative financing example based on 2012 Sorento (SR75BC) with a selling price of $28,379 [includes delivery and destination fees of $1,650, other fees of $34, OMVIC fee, Environmental Fee and A/C tax ($100, where applicable)] financed at 0% APR for 60 months. Monthly payments equal $413 with a down payment/equivalent trade of $2,600. Cost of borrowing is $0 for a total obligation of $28,379. License, insurance, applicable taxes, variable dealer administration fees (up to $699), PPSA, and registration fees are extra. Financing example excludes $1,000 loan savings that is deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. ◆◆Don't Pay for 90 Days" on select models (90-day payment deferral) applies to purchase financing offers on select 2011 and 2012 models on approved credit (OAC) (2011/2012 Sportage/Sorento/Sedona/Borrego excluded). No interest will accrue during the first 60 days of the finance contract. After this period, interest starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay the principal interest monthly over the term of the contract. ◂Lease offer available on approved credit (OAC) on 2012 Optima (OP54JC) is based on monthly payments of $267 [includes delivery and destination fees of $1,455, $34 OMVIC fee, Environmental Fee, A/C tax ($100, where applicable), $350 lease service fee and a lease savings (lease credit) of $1,000 ($1,000 includes $500 Loyalty Bonus and $500 lease savings)] for 48 months at 2.9% with a $2,199 down payment/equivalent trade, PPSA, security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $15,036 with the option to purchase at the end of the term for $10,054. Lease has 16,000 km/year allowance (other packages available and $0.12/km for excess kilometres). Other taxes, registration, insurance, licensing and variable dealer administration fees (up to $699) are excluded. ¥Loyalty Bonus offer available on 2012 Optima (OP54JC) at a value of $500 for any current Kia owners towards the purchase or lease of a new 2012 Optima (OP54JC) by April 30, 2012. Loyalty Bonus offer applicable to cash purchase, lease and purchase financing only and will be deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. Offer is transferrable within same household only (must provide proof of address). Limit of one Loyalty Bonus per customer or household. Certain restrictions apply. See dealer for details. *Highway/city fuel consumption of these vehicles may vary. These estimates are based on the Transport Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the Government of Canada's *EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide*. Your actual fuel consumption will vary. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. Reproduction of the contents of this material without the expressed written approval of Kia Canada Inc. is prohibited. All information is believed to be accurate, based on information available at the time of printing. Information sourced from independent third-party research. KIA is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.

Working to save trapped miners in Peru

Workers cut logs during the rescue operation to save nine trapped miners at the Cabeza de Negro gold and copper mine in Yauca del Rosario, Peru, Monday. Peruvian authorities say nine miners trapped since April 5 are being supplied with sports drinks, soup and food while emergency responders work to free them.

MARTIN MEJIA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No grand jury in Trayvon shooting

Neighbourhood-watch incident.
Decision on whether to charge unarmed teen's shooter in hands of special prosecutor

A grand jury will not look into the Trayvon Martin death, a U.S. special prosecutor said Monday, eliminating the possibility of a first-degree murder charge and leaving the decision of whether to charge the teen's shooter in her hands alone.

Angela Corey said her decision had no bearing on whether she would file charges against George Zimmerman, the neighbourhood-watch volunteer who has said he shot the unarmed black teen in self-defence.

Corey could still decide to charge him with a serious felony such as manslaughter, which can carry a lengthy prison sentence.

The case has led to protests across the U.S. and spurred a debate about race and the laws of self-defence. Martin was black; Zimmerman's father is white and his mother is Hispanic.

Trayvon Martin. MARTIN FAMILY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zimmerman has claimed self-defence in the Feb. 26 confrontation and shooting. Florida's self-defence law gives wide leeway to use deadly force and eliminates a person's duty to retreat in the face of danger.

A grand jury had been set to meet Tuesday. Corey has long had a reputation for not using grand juries if not necessary. In Florida, only first-degree murder cases require the use of grand juries.

Corey's decision means she doesn't have to rely on potentially unpredictable jurors, said David Hill, an Orlando criminal defence attorney.

"Let's give her the benefit of the doubt. Maybe she knows there isn't enough for first-degree murder but she wants to maintain control and charge him with something else," Hill said. "What does she need a grand jury for? She cuts out the unpredictability of the grand jury. She goes where she feels she has more evidence."

Corey took over the case last month after the prosecutor who normally handles cases out of the city of Sanford recused himself. That prosecutor, Norm Wolfinger, had originally called for the case to be presented before a grand jury.

"From the moment she was assigned, Ms. Corey noted she may not need a grand jury," said a statement from Corey's office.

Prosecutors sometimes use grand juries to avoid the political fallout from controversial cases. But Corey was elected by voters more than 160 kilometres away, so political problems are less of an issue, Hill said.

An attorney for Martin's parents said in a statement that he is not surprised by the decision to avoid the grand jury and hopes a decision is reached soon.

"The family has been patient throughout this process and asks that those who support them do the same," said attorney Benjamin Crump.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Crime

Suspects in court following Tulsa shooting spree

Two Oklahoma men suspected in a shooting rampage that left three people dead and terrorized Tulsa's African-American community made their first court appearance Monday.

Jake England, 19, and Alvin Watts, 32, appeared via closed-circuit TV.

The judge set their bond at $9.16 million US apiece.

Both are being held on suspicion of three counts of first-degree murder, two counts of shooting with the intent to kill and one count of possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony. They will be formally charged at a later date. Neither had an attorney present. Their next appearance is set for April 16.

Police have identified both suspects as white, while all five victims in Friday's shootings were black. Police say it's too early to say whether the attacks in Tulsa's predominantly black north side were racially motivated.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jury selection starts in killing of Oscar winner's relatives

A judge will question would-be jurors as jury selection begins in earnest at the Chicago trial of the man accused of murdering singer and Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Hudson's mother, brother and nephew.

Hudson, who was not in Chicago at the time of the killings, told investigators she was in touch with her mother almost every day and became concerned when she couldn't reach her by late morning on Oct. 24, 2008.

Hours later, the bodies of her mother, Darnell Donerson, 57, and brother, Jason Hudson, 29, were found shot to death in the family home. The body of her seven-year-old nephew, Julian King, was found days later in a sport utility vehicle several kilometres away.

Selecting 12 jurors and six alternates able to set aside sympathy for the Hollywood star and assess guilt only according to evidence presented in court against William Balfour could pose a challenge.

It's expected to take two or three days to make final selections from among 150 prospective jurors.

Judge Charles Burns will aim to weed out anyone who might be swayed by the 30-year-old Hudson's celebrity, though he's unlikely to automatically exclude Hudson fans if they can convince him their biases won't affect their deliberations.

If convicted, Balfour, who is also 30, faces a maximum life sentence. His lawyers have said the evidence is circumstantial; prosecutors say the proof includes gun residue. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Testimony begins April 23

Court officials say Hudson is expected to attend every day of the trial.

- Hudson is on a 300-name list of potential witnesses, though it's not certain she will testify.
- Nine of 66 questions on a questionnaire the would-be jurors filled out dealt with Hudson's career.

Jennifer Hudson arrives before the 83rd Academy Awards in February 2011 in Hollywood. CHRIS PIZZELLO /THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No one killed

U.S. navy will compensate victims of military jet crash

U.S. navy officials say they will begin providing compensation right away to those affected by Friday's military jet crash into a Virginia Beach apartment complex.

Initial payments will begin at $2,300 US for an individual resident, with more going to residents with families.

Dozens of apartment units were destroyed when the F/A-18D Hornet careened into the Mayfair Mews apartment complex.

Residents won't be permitted onto the site until the cleanup is complete.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dame Grand Cross

Camilla gets highest female rank in Royal Victorian Order

Queen Elizabeth has appointed the Duchess of Cornwall to the highest female rank in the Royal Victorian Order, Buckingham Palace said Monday.

The announcement that Camilla has been made a Dame Grand Cross comes on the day of her seventh wedding anniversary with Prince Charles.

Awards under the Royal Victorian Order are given by the Queen to people who have served her or the monarchy in a personal way. They are bestowed independently of the prime minister's office.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Serbia

Clashes over permanent housing for Roma people

Fourteen people have been injured in clashes between policemen and stone-hurling rioters protesting the building of a Roma settlement in a Belgrade, Serbia, suburb.

Police said 12 officers and two protesters were hurt in the clashes in the village of Resnik on Sunday. About 20 protesters were arrested.

Police were trying to protect the construction of a permanent housing settlement for the Roma, who are to be moved from their slum in downtown Belgrade.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KIA

DARE TO COMPARE SALES EVENT

PAY FOR 90 DAYS◆

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Best New Family Car
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7 DAYS ONLY! APRIL 9TH TO 15TH†

WORLD RECORD HOLDER FOR FUEL CONSUMPTION*

HWY: 4.9L/100KM
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Optima Hybrid shown

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$1,000 ECO-CREDIT>

Own it from $510 per month for 60 months. Offer includes delivery, destination and fees of $1,939. Based on a purchase price of $30,595.
*Lowest Fuel Consumption by a Hybrid car. 3.6L per 100km.

DARE TO COMPARE ☑	KIA OPTIMA HYBRID BASE	2012 Toyota Camry Hybrid LE	2012 Ford Fusion Hybrid Base
Horsepower (hp)	206	200	191
Windshield Wiper De-Icer	✓	✗	✗
Memory Driver Seat	✓	✗	✗
Rearview Camera	✓	✗	✗
Heated Front Seats	✓	✗	✗

KIA

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WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED
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Offer(s) available on select new 2011/2012 models through participating dealers to qualified customers who take delivery by April 30, 2012. Dealers may sell or lease for less. Some conditions apply. Offers are subject to change without notice. See dealer for complete details. Vehicle images shown may include optional accessories and upgrades available at extra cost. All offers exclude licensing, registration, insurance, other taxes and down payment (if applicable). Other dealer charges may be required at the time of purchase. Other lease and financing options also available. †Optima 3 Payments On Us offer is available on approved credit to eligible retail customers who finance or lease a new 2011/2012 Optima or Optima Hybrid from a participating dealer between April 9 – April 15, 2012. Eligible lease and purchase finance (including FlexChoice) customers will receive a cheque in the amount of 3 payments (excluding taxes) to a maximum of $400/month. Lease and finance (including FlexChoice) purchases are subject to approved credit. Customers will be given a choice between up to $1,200 reductions from the selling/leasing price after taxes or dealer can issue a cheque to the customer. Some conditions apply. See your dealer for complete details. **Representative financing example based on 2012 Sorento (SR75BC) with a selling price of $28,379 (includes delivery and destination fees of $1,650, other fees of $34, OMVIC Fee, Environmental Fee and A/C tax ($100, where applicable)) financed at 0% APR for 60 months. Monthly payments equal $413 with a down payment/equivalent trade of $2,600. Cost of borrowing is $0 for a total obligation of $28,379. License, insurance, applicable taxes, variable dealer administration fees (up to $699), PPSA, and registration fees are extra. Financing example excludes $1,000 loan savings that is deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. ✦"Don't Pay for 90 Days" on select models (90-day payment deferral) applies to purchase financing offers on select 2011 and 2012 models on approved credit (OAC) (2011/2012 Sportage/Sorento/Sedona/Borrego excluded). No interest will accrue during the first 60 days of the finance contract. After this period, interest starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay the principal interest monthly over the term of the contract. >ECO-Credit for 2011 Optima Hybrid is $1,000 and is applicable to the purchase or lease of a new 2011 Kia Optima Hybrid. Available at participating dealers. Certain restrictions apply. See dealer for details. ^Highway/city fuel consumption of these vehicles may vary. These estimates are based on the Transport Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the Government of Canada's *EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide*. Your actual fuel consumption will vary. ^2011 Optima Hybrid awarded: Guinness Book of World Records for the Lowest Fuel Consumption in a hybrid gasoline vehicle while driving through all 48 adjoining U.S. states. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. Reproduction of the contents of this material without the expressed written approval of Kia Canada Inc. is prohibited. All information is believed to be accurate, based on information available at the time of printing. Information sourced from independent third-party research. KIA is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.

MOVIN' ON UP TO A DELUXE

Thinking of retiring on Mars? It could be a thing of the not-too-distant future, but blasting off remains expensive, and not a priority for earthly governments

ELISABETH BRAW
Metro World News

Astronauts can live in space for six months, so what's to stop others from spending half a year there, too? Or living there permanently?

Very little.

"An American millionaire who has made a fortune on hotels is already trying out inflatable space stations for use as space hotels," notes Chris Welch, lecturer in astronautics and space systems at the International Space University in Strasbourg, France.

"Once we have hotels in space, living in space won't be very far away."

The millionaire, Robert Bigelow, runs the company Bigelow Aerospace, whose space capsules will provide long-term accommodation for up to six people.

Galactic Suites also plans space hotels, while Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic intends to launch short-term space flights to lower orbit.

PayPal co-founder Elon Musk, who now runs space-exploration company SpaceX, says he'd like to retire on Mars.

And at universities around the world, researchers are designing the buildings, furniture and even games for humans in space.

The human colonies could float in lower orbit, like the International Space Station, or even be built on the moon.

But even though the science and engineering exists, outer space remains uninhabited by humans.

"It's not a technical problem, but a political one," explains Larry Bell, professor of space architecture at the University of Houston.

"Politicians are trying to fix the economy and national and international problems, so space isn't a priority. It's seen as too expensive."

Launching a spacecraft carries a price tag of some $10,000 per kilo.

Space agencies and private companies, however, are undeterred. NASA is even developing new space food for the expected increase in space travellers.

"Because there's no gravity, you can't even fry an egg in space," explains Alvin Drew, a NASA astronaut and head of NASA's advanced exploration systems habitat demonstration unit.

"But until now, the space food could only last for one to two years. Just going to Mars takes 18 months. So our food laboratory is developing new ways of cooking in space. It's still prepared food. But if you inject it into liquid you get a meal that's tastes very good. I just ate a space steak that tasted just like the real thing."

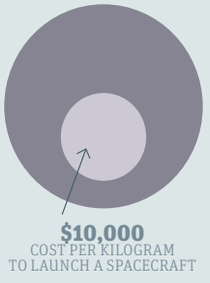
In the end, leaving Earth may become a necessity.

"Building space colonies will increase our chances of surviving," says Welch.

"Space exploration is humans' insurance policy."

Weighing the cost

Space — cheaper than gold!



Reluctant investors

Big space, little interest

The University of Houston's world-famous space-architecture program, headed by Larry Bell, has developed many of the buildings and furniture that could be used in space colonies.

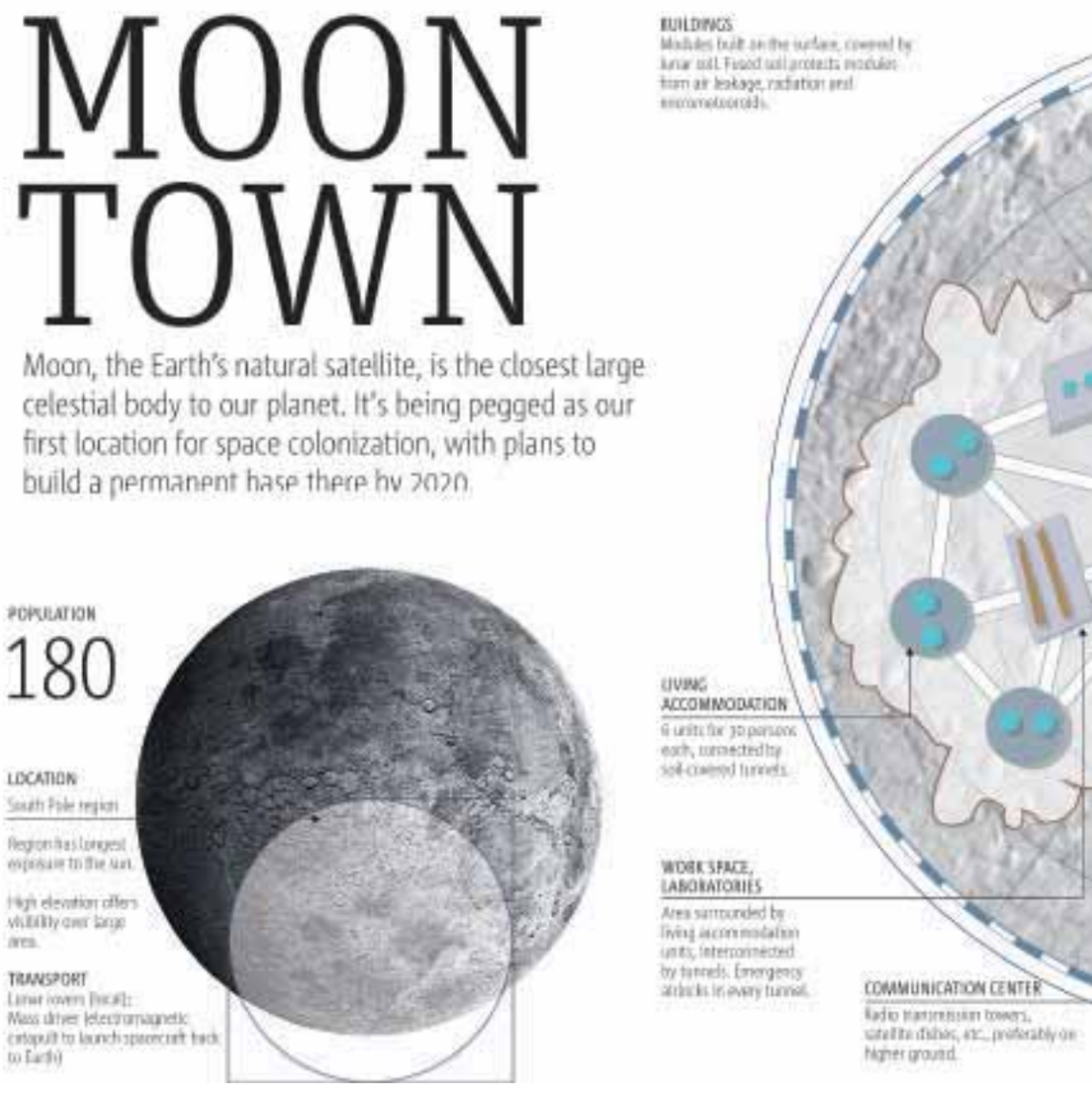
But, says Bell, the number of applicants to the program has been dropping for the past several years.

"Young people see no future in space exploration," he notes.

That's because, five decades after John F. Kennedy announced the U.S. would send a man to the moon, the space race with the Soviet Union is over and politicians are reluctant to make major investments in space.

"Space isn't expensive compared to other things we spend money on," reflects Bell. "But as far as governments go, space now seems to be perceived as a burden."

ELISABETH BRAW/
METRO WORLD NEWS


MOON TOWN
Moon, the Earth's natural satellite, is the closest large celestial body to our planet. It's being pegged as our first location for space colonization, with plans to build a permanent base there by 2020.
POPULATION
180
LOCATION
South Pole region
Region has longest exposure to the sun.
High elevation offers visibility over large area.
TRANSPORT
Lunar rovers (local); Mass driver (electromagnetic catapult to launch spacecraft back to Earth)
BUILDINGS
Modules built on the surface, covered by lunar soil. Fused soil protects modules from air leakage, radiation and micrometeoroids.
LIVING ACCOMMODATION
6 units for 30 persons each, connected by soil-covered tunnels.
WORK SPACE, LABORATORIES
Area surrounded by living accommodation units, interconnected by tunnels. Emergency airlocks in every tunnel.
COMMUNICATION CENTER
Radio transmission towers, satellite dishes, etc., preferably on higher ground.

Thrusters on full: Sex in space

Anybody who has seen Barbarella or Flash Gordon will know that space is a sexy place, populated with lustful aliens and new possibilities.

But having a sex life in space is not as straightforward as Hollywood suggests, and would represent a giant leap for mankind. With Earth's resources diminishing, humans need space. They also need sex, and the species' survival may depend on erotic breakthroughs on these, the big questions:

Has anyone had sex in space? Leia and Han try to make time. 20TH CENTURY FOX

Has anyone had sex in space?

Nobody's admitted it, although cheeky California scientist Dr. Rhawn Joseph says there are rumours of a couple "sealing the deal" on the International Space Station. In 1991, Jan Davis and Mark Lee became the first married couple to fly together, breaking NASA rules designed to keep team harmony, but they are believed to have resisted temptation.

Is it even possible?

"The fantasy might be vastly superior to the reality," says spoilsport NASA physician Jim Logan, pointing to motion sickness and the "messy environment" it would create. In 2000, French science writer Pierre Kohler claimed that NASA had been testing zero-gravity sex in different positions but it was revealed to be a hoax. NASA says it has never conducted any such research but is not against sex in principle, as long as astronauts have "a constant commitment to honourable behaviour."

What is the best space-sex tech available?

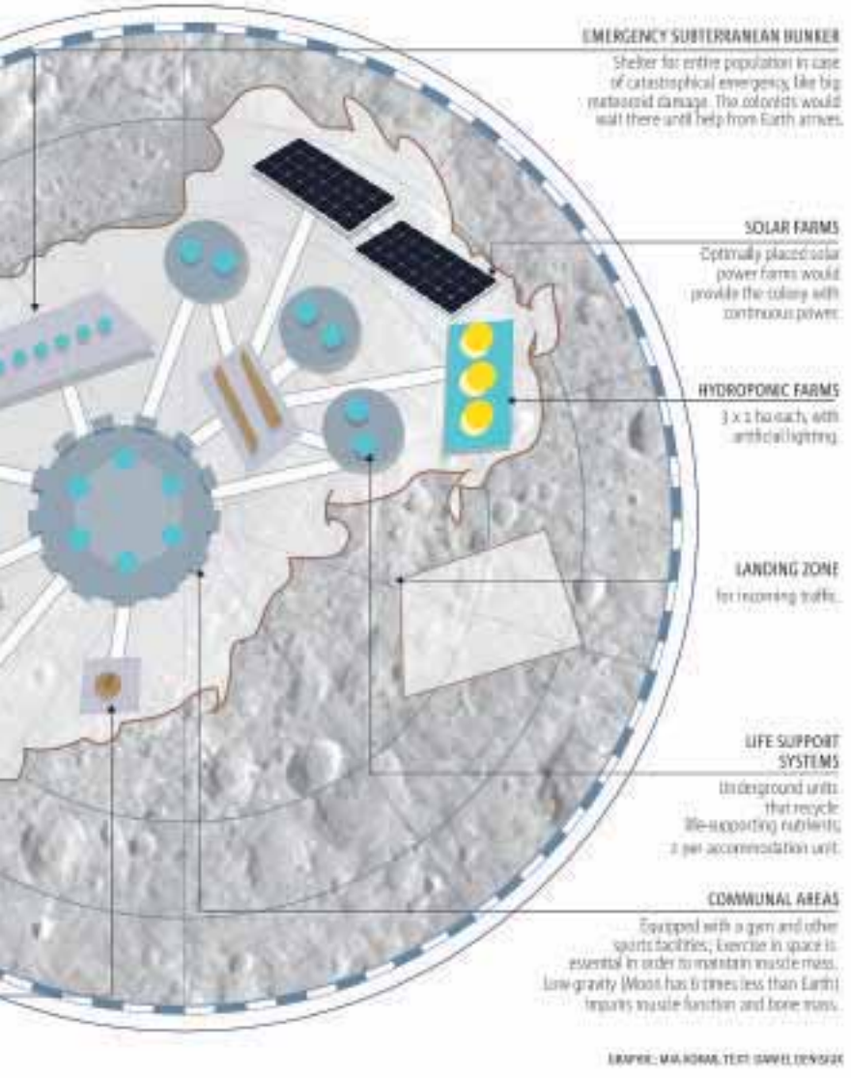
Probably actress/writer Vanna Bonta's "2 Suit," which uses light, flexible material that a couple can share playtime in. "Sex in space is not just a good idea, it's survival," said our hero. Real-estate billionaire Robert Bigelow is also ahead of the game with his Genesis prototype space hotel.

Could a baby be born in space — and would it be human?

Yes and no. "If you put an infant on Mars, they would adapt to the new environment," says Joseph, a neuroscientist. "And after several generations, you'd have a new species."

KEIRON MONKS/METRO WORLD NEWS

APARTMENT IN THE SKY


EMERGENCY SUBTERRANEAN BUNKER
Shelter for entire population in case of catastrophical emergency, like big meteoroid damage. The colonists would wait there until help from Earth arrives.
SOLAR FARMS
Optimally placed solar power farms would provide the colony with continuous power.
HYDROPONIC FARMS
3 x 1 ha each, with artificial lighting.
LANDING ZONE
for incoming traffic.
LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS
Underground units that recycle life-supporting nutrients, 2 per accommodation unit.
COMMUNAL AREAS
Equipped with a gym and other sports facilities; Exercise in space is essential in order to maintain muscle mass. Low gravity (Moon has 6 times less than Earth) impairs muscle function and bone mass.

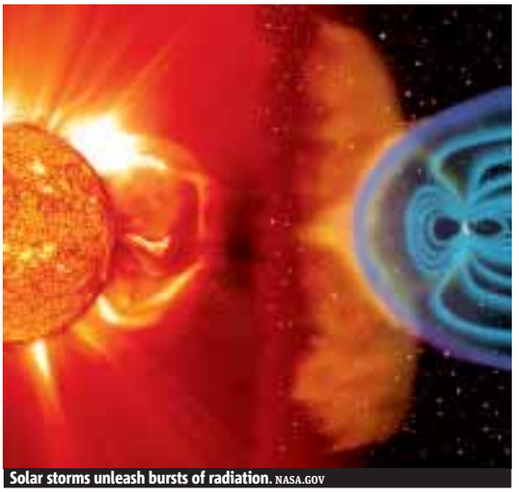
GRAPHIC: MIA ROMAL TEXT: DANIEL DENSUK

Seeking shelter from the storms in space

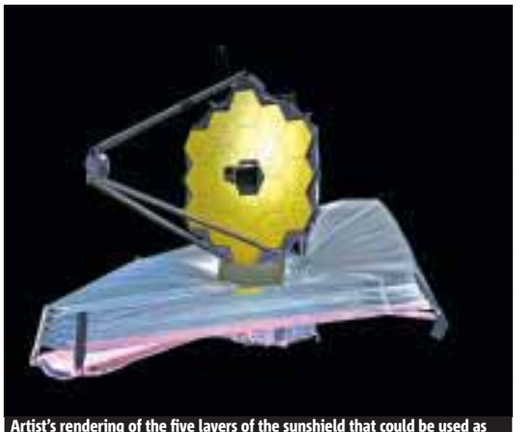
Just as Earth has sun and wind, so does space. In fact, the space weather presents a crucial challenge to human habitation.

"Space weather is not about sun and wind," explains Dr. John Farrow, professor of space applications at the International Space University. "It's about plasma and radiation. But it does have as much variation as our weather down here. In the most extreme circumstances, the weather can terminate a space mission."

The space equivalent of rain is radiation, which rains down on astronauts and forces them to carry "umbrellas" — radiation-proof space suits — or stay inside their capsule.



Solar storms unleash bursts of radiation. NASA.GOV



Artist's rendering of the five layers of the sunshield that could be used as a space "umbrella." NASA.GOV

Weather everywhere

"Space weather is not about sun and wind. It's about plasma and radiation. But it does have as much variation as our weather down here."
Dr. John Farrow, professor of space applications, ISU

"But just like a regular umbrella doesn't fully protect against rain, a 'space umbrella' doesn't fully protect against radiation," notes Farrow. "And the problem with radiation is that you can't see it."

Radiation, of course, causes chronic illnesses like cancer.

"On the moon you have no protection against space weather," explains Prof. Alex Ignatiev, director of the Center for Advanced Materials at the University of Houston.

"If we're going to live there, we'd need a one-to-two-metre-thick layer of lunar sand on top of the capsule. Lunar sand absorbs radiation from the sun. Mars would be a little easier because it has a bit of atmosphere. But space weather is a major challenge."

On the other hand, the moon has water, and is easily accessible from Earth. But if humans are to establish space colonies, they have to design space suits that will provide complete protection against radiation.

They also have to design space capsules that can withstand sudden weather changes and fluctuating temperatures.

Not surprisingly, space agencies have entire teams dedicated to space weather, but they face a daunting task: Creating weather-proof gear that weighs very little. Weight is an essential issue as each kilo of payload costs $10,000 to launch into space.

In the meantime, space agencies have developed a new capability — and one that will be extremely useful even to us earthlings: Space-weather prediction.

"They can tell what's coming and issue an alarm to companies operating satellites," says Farrow.

"If the companies don't react, the satellites can be destroyed."

That would mean no cellphone calls, no satellite-beamed TV, no cloud-computing.

ELISABETH BRAW/METRO WORLD NEWS

Q&A

'Next stop will be the moon'

A Q&A with Alvin Drew, director of NASA's advanced exploration systems habitat demonstration unit.

When will we live in space?
Our goal is to explore Mars within 25 to 30 years. To reach that goal, we'll start by exploring asteroids, and keep exploring the moon. And to do so, we need human habitats on the moon and these asteroids.

What will habitats look like?
Very different from the International Space Station. They won't look different on the outside, but the difference is that the ISS is in lower orbit, within Earth's magnetic field, which protects us from radiation. A habitat farther away from Earth needs huge radiation protection. And farther away from Earth there's never a sunset, so your body doesn't know what time of the day it is. Then there are speed delays: Even if you're communicating at the speed of light, a signal takes 20 minutes to reach Earth. That's very different from the ISS, where we have cameras that literally look over the astronauts' shoulders and we can communicate immediately.

METRO WORLD NEWS

In Metro Wednesday

- **Exploring the cosmic kitchen:** Metro takes a look at what's on the menu in space.

In Metro Thursday

- **We reveal the Canadian finalist for our Metro Race for Space contest.**

More at metronews.ca

- **Suiting up:** Designers best known for dressing Lady Gaga and Rihanna reveal their take on a spacesuit.
- **Angry astrophysicist:** Neil deGrasse Tyson reviews Angry Birds Space.

Confidence. Business optimism on the rise among Canadian firms

Business optimism in Canada is rising sharply as the gloom of the winter months appears to be giving way to better expectations for sales, hiring and investment, a new Bank of Canada survey suggests.

The quarterly survey of senior management from 100 representative firms, conducted over four weeks in February and March, found the outlook for future sales among the most positive since the recession.

It showed 58 of the respondents expected higher sales in the next 12 months, as opposed to 23 who expected fewer.

That put Bank of Canada's important measure of business confidence at a positive 35, a big turnaround from the negative four balance of opinion in its January report.

It follows an unexpectedly strong employment report last week from Statistics Canada, which said 82,000 jobs were added in March, reversing what had been a few months of modest employment downturns.

"The good Canadian news just keeps rolling," said Derek Holt, an economist with Scotia Capital.

The snap-back in business confidence, while encouraging, raises the risk of the central bank moving to hike interest rates later this year, although there is no urgency, added Bank of Montreal's deputy chief economist Douglas Porter.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 100.35¢ (-0.27¢)

TSX 12,018.5 (-84.61)

OIL $102.46 US (-85¢)

GOLD $1,643.90 US (+$13.80)

Natural gas: $2.107 US (+1.8¢)
Dow Jones: 12,929.59 (-130.55)

Facebook buys photo app Instagram for $1 billion

The Instagram app is used on an iPhone Monday in New York. Facebook is paying $1 billion to acquire the service. KARLY DOMB SADO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Picture perfect. Social-networking giant looking to expand its mobile presence with the acquisition

Facebook is spending $1 billion US to buy the photo-sharing company Instagram in the social network's largest acquisition ever.

Instagram lets people apply filters to photos they snap with their mobile devices and share them with friends and strangers. Some of the filters make the photos look as if they were taken in the 1970s or on Polaroid cameras.

"This is an important milestone for Facebook because it's the first time we've ever acquired a product and company with so many users," CEO Mark Zuckerberg wrote on his Facebook page. "We don't plan on doing many more of these, if any at all."

Facebook said it plans to keep Instagram running independently. That's a departure from its tendency to buy small startups and integrate the technology — or shut them down altogether just so it can hire talented engineers and developers.

Facebook is paying cash and stock for San Francisco-based Instagram and hiring its 10 employees. The deal is expected to close by the end of June.

Instagram was only available on Apple devices until recently. An app for Android devices was released last week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Online sharing

"We think the fact that Instagram is connected to other services beyond Facebook is an important part of the experience."

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg

THE NEW RT
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I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR KLOUT SCORE

SHE SAYS...
Jessica Napier
metronews.ca/shesays

I recently received an email letting me know that I had FINALLY achieved a Klout score in the 40s, 45 to be precise. What tangible impact has this had on my everyday life? Absolutely none.

Founded in 2008, Klout.com allows users to measure their fluctuating influence across the social web. While "clout" refers to real political or social power, Klout with a "K" is a much more superficial unit of measurement, much like anything from the Kardashian Kollection.

Users relinquish all sorts of private data from their various social networks — Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn — and Klout compiles a score ranging from one to 100. This influence score reflects your ability to drive action within your social circles.

I first learned about Klout at a web conference I attended last year. I registered immediately, a decision based on equal parts curiosity and vanity. After determining my score and realizing just how irrelevant it was, I completely forgot about my account.

Scope of influence

But while I was quick to dismiss it, many are eager to find out where they land on the barometer of influence. To date, the San Francisco startup has assigned Klout scores to over 100-million people and brands worldwide.

But while I was quick to dismiss it, many are eager to find out where they land on the barometer of influence. To date, the San Francisco startup has assigned Klout scores to more than 100-million people and brands worldwide.

Interestingly, Klout not only tells you who you are influencing and how much, but what topics you are influential about. However, based on my personal experience, the accuracy of these insights varies from spot-on to absolutely absurd.

Here are some of the peculiar subject areas that I am apparently influential about: The New York Jets, animals, diamonds. I can guarantee that I have never made an online (or offline) reference to the New York Jets in my life so who knows what sort of obscure logarithms they use to come up with this nonsense. As an animal-indifferent individual with a non-existent diamond collection, I'm pretty skeptical on whether these insights into my online reputation are really all that significant.

In a recent study titled The Rise of Digital Influence, author Brian Solis questions the accuracy of Klout and similar measurement tools that rank users' online social capital. Solis suggests that in reality these arbitrary numbers aren't a reflection of an individual's true influence or capacity to influence, but of their online visibility.

As social media becomes less about socializing and more about shameless self-promotion, companies like Klout certainly aren't going anywhere. And while I'm sure there is some real value in analyzing online engagement, this quantification of influence has also created an army of self-important tweeters obsessing over their personal brand.

A shop in Tahrir Square is spray painted with the word "Facebook" after the government shut off Internet access in this Feb. 4, 2011, file photo. Klout.com allows users to measure their social influence, but the accuracy is up for debate. PETER MACDIARMID/GETTY IMAGES

Weather — a 'guilty pleasure'

Visitors stand under cherry trees in blossom by the Tidal Basin March 19 in Washington. It's been so warm in the United States this year, especially in March, that national records weren't just broken, they were deep-fried. ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES

Not your average March

High temperatures alarm experts

Temperatures in the lower 48 states were above normal for March, according to calculations by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the U.S. That far exceeds the old records.

The magnitude of how unusual the year has been in the U.S. has alarmed some meteorologists who have warned about global warming. One climate scientist said it's the weather equivalent of a baseball player on steroids, with old records obliterated.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Global 'warning'?

"Everybody has this uneasy feeling. This is weird. This is not good.... It's a guilty pleasure. You're out enjoying this nice March weather, but you know it's not a good thing."

Jerry Meehl, climate scientist who specializes in extreme weather at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colo.

The facts

- It's important to note that this unusual winter heat is mostly a North American phenomenon. Much of the rest of the Northern Hemisphere has been cold, said NOAA meteorologist Martin Hoerling.
- The atypical heat goes back even further. The U.S. winter of 2010-2011 was slightly cooler than normal and one of the snowiest in recent years, but after that things started heating up.
- The summer of 2011 was the second-warmest summer on record.

Record-breaking

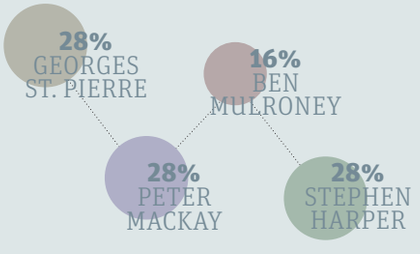
1.4

The first quarter of 2012 broke the January-March record by 1.4 degrees. Usually records are broken by just one- or two-tenths of a degree. U.S. temperature records date to 1895.

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Who should Justin Trudeau box next?



Twitter

@fluidfyre:
Impressed with the rapid transit route @cityofwinnipeg ! From U of MB to downtown graham st in 20 min! Be lucky to make that in a car.

@JonChap1:
#RapidTransit was not bad this morning - we must have gotten up to 80km/h! (although no different than usual) #winnipeg

@melissaromanow1:
Wearing flip flops in -1 weather. Must be from #winnipeg. #indenial.

@ProgressiveWPG:
I rode Winnipeg's new Rapid Transit line to work today. On behalf of #ywg, many thanks to @Glen4TC for getting this ball rolling. #transit

@EmHector:
Getting on the bus, falling asleep, and waking up in the new rapid transit station was...disorienting. #whereami #whichcityisthis

metro

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2

SCENE

Scene in brief

Stars to earn their stripes

A new TV competition series that tests celebrities against the demands of military exercises will be produced for NBC. Stars Earn Stripes is the working title of the show from veteran producers Dick Wolf (Law & Order) and Mark Burnett (Survivor, The Voice). Nine celebrities from music, sports and Hollywood will be paired with trainers at a "top-notch, secret training facility," the producers said. The contestants will face weekly challenges such as hostage-rescue exercises or placing a laser target atop a mountain. Burnett, who joined the British military at age 17 and served as a paratrooper, said celebrities and the audience will realize how "hard and scary" such tasks are. An air date for Stars Earn Stripes wasn't announced.

On the web

Loud and clear: Country star Keith Urban enjoys benefits of surgery, performs at Hall benefit

Conor Maynard's vocals are impressing some big names in the music world. LEFTERIS PITARAKIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Move over Bieber, here comes a Brit

New talent. British teen Conor Maynard is set to debut a single after being discovered on YouTube. Sound familiar?

Being called the new Justin Bieber has put British singer Conor Maynard on the music world's radar.

The 19-year-old from Brighton has gone from uploading videos of himself singing at home to working with Pharrell Williams on his debut album in Florida.

Maynard realized that by putting up covers of current tracks, people would stumble across his own versions. The results were impressive — NeYo offered to work with him after watching his version of Beautiful Monster and Chris Brown retweeted the video of his Yeah 3x. Maynard couldn't believe his luck.

Actually, he was so skeptical he insisted on a chat with NeYo, to make sure it was the real R'n'B deal, rather than his friends joking around.

"It was about midnight when I was on Skype to him, everyone in my house was asleep," Maynard told The Associated Press.

"So I was like, 'Hi, NeYo.' That kind of killed any starstruckness — I had to talk really quietly."

Record company interest followed and now Maynard is dropping his debut single, Can't Say No, on April 20 through Polydor.

The comparisons with Bieber aren't that far off the mark. Both got their break via YouTube, both were mentored by an established rhythm and blues star (Bieber's being Usher) and both, while inspired by American urban music, are foreigners.

"In terms of the music, it ends there," says Maynard.

"(I have) a very different sound. But it's obviously flattering to be compared to one of the biggest artists in the world right now when I haven't even released my first single yet."

His talent was discovered when he was overheard singing to himself on the way home from school in Brighton, a hip coastal town in southern England.

His friends kept asking him to perform, so he started putting videos online to keep them happy.

Soon after NeYo spotted him, record companies caught on and he signed with Polydor in the U.K. MTV has picked him as being one to watch for 2012 after he won their Brand New competition.

Thanks to Maynard's online following, Can't Say No has already clocked up over three million views in a month. He's also got 124,560 followers on Twitter — and the number is rising.

Can't Say No is reminiscent of Justin Timberlake's vocals, with a catchy "Houston, I think we got a problem" hook.

An album is set to follow this summer and it has already gone down well with his five-star friends. Maynard has played it for Pharrell, Ludacris, Tyler The Creator, Lil Wayne and NeYo, among others

"They've heard all the tracks I was doing and what I'm planning to do — they're really excited about it as well," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DVD reviews

The Iron Lady

Director. Phyllida Lloyd

Stars. Meryl Streep, Jim Broadbent, Richard E. Grant

Phyllida Lloyd's biopic on Margaret Thatcher takes its title from the nickname of Britain's first female prime minister, who was hailed by some and cursed by others when she headed the government from 1979 to 1990.

The film's 2011 theatrical release gathered similar extremes of reactions. But nearly everyone agrees on one thing: Meryl Streep gives a towering performance in the title role. She was rewarded with a best-actress Oscar for a portrayal that takes Thatcher from shopkeeper's daughter to young bride, and from powerhouse in parliament to tottering, demented old widow. Lloyd, and writer Abi Morgan, use the controversial device of the ghost spouse. Thatcher's late husband, Denis, played by the reliable Jim Broadbent, appears frequently as Thatcher's spectral companion, offering advice and admonishments with loving devotion. It's a difficult trick to pull off, and its use here has not been universally applauded. But to me, it's a perfect evocation by two superlative actors of the almost supernatural bond that longtime couples achieve.

PETER HOWELL

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Here comes the Biel: Jessica's going gown shopping?

Jessica Biel ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Jessica Biel is a bride-to-be on a mission.

The actress, who is reportedly engaged to Justin Timberlake, embarked on a seven-hour shopping spree in Paris Friday — with stops at at least two major bridal designers, according to People magazine. Biel's assistant, at her side the whole time, was reportedly toting a massive wedding planning book.

Sources have speculated that the couple will tie the knot this summer.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Katy Perry is 'tired' of her fabricated fame. Zzzzz.

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

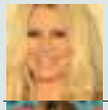
Oh boo-hoo: Katy Perry, one of the most manufactured pop stars of the past decade, is fed up with fame, according to Teen Vogue.

"I'm tired of being famous already! But I'm not tired of creating. Fame is, I think, just a disgusting by-product of what I do," Perry tells the magazine. "It's a delicate creature — a wild animal of sorts. It can love you, and then it can attack you. But really, I stopped focusing on what other people think a while ago."

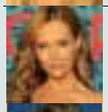
Oh, so you wearing an ice cream bra, marrying a super-famous actor and then divorcing him, riding Teenage Dream into the ground until it yielded as many No. 1 singles as Thriller and then releasing yet another version of the album (The Complete Confection) are all ploys to keep you under the radar? Yes, that totally makes sense.

Being famous and then complaining about being famous is so tiring. You can give it all up and live in a yurt, you know. It's not that hard to not be a celebrity anymore. Just look at Tiffany.

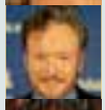
Twitter



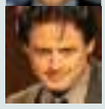
@JessicaSimpson
Last chance to see me "fat" aka PREGNANT on the cover of Elle :) I loved this shoot, only on stands for a few more days!!!



@LeslieJMann
Just cut my lip trying to bite off the corkscrew to my wine bottle. Im alone too.



@ConanOBrien
Just saw a lame white guy lip-synching a Jay-Z song as I drove past the mirror store.



@JohnFugelsang
The only thing Americans hate more than the Chinese being communist is when the Chinese outdo us as capitalists.

Bad boy Jesse James has been beat up enough

Jesse James

As far as Jesse James is concerned, it's about time everyone forgave him for cheating on Sandra Bullock. "I think I've paid the price and then some, you know? I don't know anybody anywhere that's had to endure what I had to endure for basically infidelity," the reality TV star tells Yahoo's omg! blog. "I stood up like a man and admitted my wrongs and what I did and all that did is make every s— tabloid everywhere across the world come after me even harder. I'm strong. I can take it."

3 LIFE

Health minute

Obesity could be worse than feared

Everybody's least favourite number, BMI (body mass index), may be totally off in calculating fat, according to a new study. However, before you get too excited, the potential inaccuracy actually underestimates body fat. According to a report in the Public Library of Science's PLoS One journal, BMI calculations, which are based on height and weight, were compared to X-ray absorptiometry — or DXA — scans, which calculates obesity based on fat-composition standard. Turns out, BMI calculations often classify people as "underweight" when the DXA scans would consider them obese, nearly four out of 10 times. The findings of this study, of course, imply that North America's already atrocious obesity rate is actually much worse than we know. Additionally, this means some may be unaware that they are obese (which is hard to imagine) and therefore not taking proper steps in health care.

METRO WORLD NEWS

On the Web

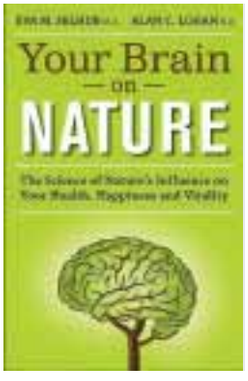
U.S. agency warns of cancer drug counterfeit

Studies show what we already know: getting outside is good for you. ISTOCK PHOTOS

Take a fresh breath of nature and inhale the health benefits

New book. Your Brain on Nature shows the powerful influence being out in the woods has on your thinking

CELIA MILNE
life@metronews.ca



Get high on nature. Walking through a forest feels better than sitting at a desk.

Duh. That's a no-brainer.

But now experts around the world are gathering hard, scientific evidence for what we all know innately: exposure to nature has a powerful influence on the brain.

"There isn't a single study that proves beyond question that nature is good for the brain, but rather it is the combination of all the studies," says Dr. Alan Logan, co-author of a new book called Your Brain on Nature.

His message?

"Take nature breaks and power down the smartphone." Logan is a graduate of the Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine and now lives in Connecticut.

His co-author is Dr. Eva Selhub, a Harvard Medical School physician.

Japanese studies were among the first to show that immersing oneself in green space, or "forest bathing," has a positive effect on stress and immunity.

Emerging studies show time spent in forests or urban parks also leads to enhanced cognitive focus and positive mental outlook, says Logan.

Why? It is partly related to chemicals released from trees called phytoncides, which have been linked to improved immunity, and partly because of invisible negative ions found near water and forests; they have been linked to brighter mental outlook.

Nature nerds

Can't get outside?

- **Decorating.** Bring the outdoors in. When decorating your home, use natural wood, but not too much of it. Studies show the ideal amount is 30 per cent to 40 per cent of the surface area. Potted plants are great; the ideal number in an office is four.

Best Health

Why we should eat whole grains

BEST HEALTH MINUTE
Bonnie Munday
Editor-in-chief
Best Health Magazine

In each issue of Best Health, our Eat Well section includes easy and delicious recipes, and also shows you the latest and most credible research into the science of foods. In our March/April issue, on newsstands now, we outline the benefits of getting whole grains, which are a great source of fibre and protein. Adults are supposed to get six to seven servings of grains a day. Here's why:

Fight "bad" cholesterol.
Years of research shows that oats can lower the body's 'bad' cholesterol without an adverse effect on 'good' cholesterol.

Blast belly fat.
A study published in 2011 in the journal Obesity linked eating more soluble fibre to reduced visceral fat. This fat is found deep in the belly surrounding vital organs; higher amounts are associated with high blood pressure, diabetes and fatty liver disease. For every 10-gram increase in soluble fibre that study participants consumed per day, visceral fat was reduced by almost four per cent.

Prevent gallstones.
A study published in the American Journal of Gastroenterology found that women eating the most foods high in insoluble fibre had a 17 per cent lower risk of gallstones compared to those eating the least.

Control blood sugar.
According to research done at Lund University in Sweden, eating the right grains for breakfast — such as whole-grain barely, either boiled or in bread — helped to moderate increases in blood sugar for up to 10 hours. This is beneficial because large fluctuations in blood sugar levels are linked to an increased risk of type 2 diabetes, obesity and cardiovascular diseases.

Fights free radicals.
Spelt — an ancient grain related to wheat — is a rich source of manganese. It works with an enzyme that helps fight free radicals in the body that may play a role in aging, heart disease and cancer, preventing some of the damage the free radicals cause. A half-cup serving of cooked spelt provides 60 per cent of your daily needs.

Memories of special & tasty Japanese bites at BluFish

Bluefish Bento ($14.50). SJVETLANA MLINAREVIC

LUNCH RUSH
Svjetlana Mlinarevic
life@metronews.ca

Living in Japan for two years, I became used to everything being presented as a little gift. It made me feel special. Since leaving the land of cherry blossoms, I had yet to regain that experience — until I came to BluFish. Although the restaurant feels more like an izakaya than a true restaurant, the food is simply lovely. I began with the Veggie Caterpillar ($7.50). This little guy had a shiitake mushroom and cucumber interior with a topping of avocado and a sweet unagi sauce. I felt like Alice in Wonderland when it arrived at my table.

With my second dish, the Blufish Bento ($14.50), I felt like I was given a precious parcel. This lunch box was overflowing with goodness. My favourite part of the bento was the thick slices of salmon sashimi served atop ribbons of crisp daikon and a smoky spice sauce.

Although nothing can compare to eating in Japan, BluFish does come close.

Visiting the restaurant

BluFish Sushi

Address. 179 Bannatyne Ave.

Phone. 779-9888

Website. blufish.ca

Rating. 4/5

Price range. $2 - $70

Reservations. Yes

Lunch with co-workers. Yes

Social lunch. Yes

Quick solo lunch. Yes

Lemon Rice Pudding. A creamy, decadent and quick weeknight dessert

1. In heavy saucepan, bring rice, milk and maple syrup to simmer over medium heat, stirring often. Reduce heat to low, cover and simmer, stirring occasionally, 20 minutes. Stir in cranberries and half of rind; cover and simmer 10 minutes or until rice is soft and pudding is slightly thickened. Serve hot, warm or cold, stirring in more milk as necessary to thin. Sprinkle each serving with cinnamon and remaining rind. DAIRY FARMERS OF CANADA/ THE CANADIAN PRESS/ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS, PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. (EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)

Ingredients

- 125 ml (1/2 cup) arborio (short grain Italian) rice
- 750 ml (3 cups) 2% milk
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) pure maple syrup
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) dried cranberries, cherries or blueberries
- 1 1/2 tsp (7 mL) grated lemon or orange rind
- Ground cinnamon

Spice up your dinner table with Chili Garlic Roasted Shrimp with Fettuccine

Chili Garlic Roasted Shrimp with Fettuccine

This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rule No. 1 about spicy ingredients — you don't need to love spicy foods to love what spicy ingredients can do for the foods you do love.

That's because foods such as hot sauces can do more than simply add mouth-searing heat. Adding a touch will heighten other flavours of a dish without adding noticeable spiciness.

Throughout Asia there are numerous condiments referred to as sambals. Most are made by grinding together chili peppers and vinegar.

The result is a family of sauces with bright, punchy flavour and a fair amount of heat. They usually accompany meat and rice dishes and are added to taste.

One of the most common is sambal oelek (also called chili paste or fresh chili paste), which is a simple blend of crushed chilies, salt and vinegar. Alongside sambal oelek, you may also find something labelled chili garlic sauce, which is sambal oelek with garlic added.

Like most vinegar-based condiments, sambals can be refrigerated for months after opening (most are marked with "best by" dates).

The condiment is a great addition to give this dish an added kick.

1. In a large bowl, mix together oil, salt, pepper and sambal. Add shrimp and toss well.

2. Transfer shrimp, as well as any sauce in the bowl, to a rimmed baking sheet. Roast in 230 C (450 F) oven for 5 to 7 minutes or until pink and firm.

3. In large pot of boiling salted water cook pasta for about 5 minutes or until tender but firm. Drain reserving 60 mL (1/4 cup) of the cooking water.

4. In a large bowl, combine pasta and shrimp. Use a silicone spatula to scrape any liquid from baking sheet into the bowl. Toss well.

5. Sprinkle cheese and green onions over pasta and shrimp, as well as a bit of the reserved pasta cooking water to moisten. Toss until cheese is melted. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS, PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA

Ingredients

- 30 ml (2 tbsp) olive oil
- 5 ml (1 tsp) kosher salt
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) freshly ground black pepper
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) sambal oelek or chili garlic sauce
- 500 g (1 lb) large raw shrimp, shells and veins removed
- 1 pkg (340 g/12 oz) fresh fettuccine
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) grated Parmesan cheese
- 3 green onions, chopped

Funeral etiquette

CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

Because my ex-husband is angry and uncivil, I have not been in communication with my ex-in-laws since our divorce. We were together for more than 20 years and have children. When there is a death or illness in that family, what protocol should I follow? It would seem strange for me to ignore it or not attend a funeral.
Please advise.

Hello. As you are experiencing, anger and lack of civility is unfortunately common after a difficult divorce, and now translating that into dealing with former family members for such things as death becomes really tough. Even worse, the stress and unease of death makes many people react in an irrational and difficult way.

So back to your question; what should you do when you wish to attend a funeral of a divorced partner? Remember going to a funeral generally has two objectives:

1. To assist you with your personal grieving process.

2. To assist the family and be supportive of them through their grieving process.

If it is a large public funeral, you should feel free to attend. However, if this is a small or private funeral I think it's best you speak with the next of kin (ideally the head of the family of the deceased or your former husband or in-laws etc.).

First express your condolences and ask if they would feel comfortable with you attending the funeral, since you knew and loved the deceased for more than 20 years.

If they say yes, then attend the funeral, but out of respect for your ex-husband and children, keep a low profile.

You are there to pay respects to the person who has just died.

In the event that the family says no, then don't make a big deal about it. You can celebrate this person's life in several ways: have a church mass said in this person's name or make a small donation to a hospital or organization in the name of the deceased.

Finally no matter what the scenario is, write a note of condolence to each of the family members you are close with. This is the nicest and most gracious way to think of the living and the dead at the same time.

Divorces can sometimes make attending a funeral a difficult process. ISTOCK

Two Sisters. Friends with flirting benefits

TWO SISTERS
Andrea and Claire
Life@metronews.ca

Dear sisters,
I've been friends with a smart, gorgeous girl for two years now. All our friends always said we'd make a good couple if we were both single. But because she had a long-term boyfriend and I'd been dating, we just exchanged dating stories and flirted a little, but it was "safe" because we were both taken. Now she's single and so am I, and she's sowing her wild oats and still uses me as a confidant. Am I doomed to be her BFF? Boy not friend.

Claire: Dear BNF,

Don't you wish life were like the movies, so that one of your mutual friends would get her drunk then shout "Can't you tell your true love is right in front of you?" after which she would show up at your house declaring her lust for you?

Basically you two have become friends with flirting benefits. The question is whether you can become more of a flirtation with friendship benefits. Turning it around takes guts and confidence on your part: you need to let her know you're into her without doing it so bluntly that you risk losing the friendship if she's not into being more than a friend.

Either way, you're in each other's lives.

Andrea: Dear BNF,

Ever hear of the Ladder Theory? Guys have one ladder for all women that they hopefully aren't related to: the higher up she is, the more he wants to sleep with her.

Girls, on the other hand, have two ladders: one is the "friend" ladder because unlike guys, we naively think we can have a platonic relationship with the opposite gender. The other is the standard dating ladder. Between them is the Pit of Doom.

Friends like you often try to jump ladders and fall into the pit, never to be seen again. So, if you can handle utter and total rejection, go for it.

If not, let her keep you on the top rung of friends.

Is it so bad to be around a gorgeous girl without all the messy emotions of a relationship?

Small savings, big payoff: 5 easy steps to an extra $2,000 RRSP contribution

It's not rocket science. A few little tricks can help you maximize your RRSP contribution before next year's deadline

YOUR MONEY
Alison Griffiths
money@metronews.ca

You've finished your tax return and you're upset because the refund is less than you hoped. But you're also annoyed with yourself because you didn't maximize your RRSP contributions.

There's not much you can do for 2011 but you still have over 10 months to find an extra $2,000 to ease next year's tax burden. (The following advice is for those who have their debt load under control. If not do the same thing but divert the money to your debts.)

1. Devote some of your tax refund to your RRSP ($750)

Last year, according the Canadian Revenue Agency, the average refund was $1,506, most from payroll deductions. Take half of that and put it into your RRSP.

2. Increase your monthly RRSP contributions by $50 ($500 annually based on the 10 remaining contribution months)

If you haven't already enrolled in an automatic RRSP payroll deduction program, start one at $50 a month. If one is in place increase the deduction by $50.

3. Save your coins ($250)

This is an easy and painless way to build up excess cash. Put a container in the entranceway of your house and empty your pocket or purse each time you enter the house. Count it up monthly and take it to the bank. Try a little coin-saver dance with each deposit. People will think you are weird but remember, you're laughing all the way to the bank.

This little piggy can help you with step #3. ISTOCK IMAGES

4. Windfalls ($225 annually)

Ask your parents, grandparents and siblings for cash gifts instead of those icky ties and dreadful drugstore bath sets. Explain why and most will be delighted to have that chore lifted from their shoulders.

5. Eliminate one non-necessity a week ($275)

Almost everyone spends money on something they like but don't need. For example, cut out one specialty coffee, restaurant lunch, takeout meal or magazine a week.

Make these five steps a habit and you'll be well on your way to cutting your taxes and beefing up your retirement savings.

ALISON GRIFFITHS IS THE AUTHOR OF COUNT ON YOURSELF: TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR MONEY. REACH HER AT ALISONGRIFFITHS.CA OR AT GRIFFITHS.ALISON@GMAIL.COM

Alison's money rule

"Small monthly changes now add up to a bigger RRSP contribution."

Think long-term

Here's a cool 20-year plan:

- **$70,000.** Contributing an extra $2,000 annually will increase your retirement savings by nearly $70,000 in 20 years (assuming a five per cent average rate of return).

Home selling tips

Sleepless in suburbia

FUN AND FRUGAL
Leslie Scorgie
money@metronews.ca
@Lesliescorgie on Twitter

After two years of deliberation, I listed my house for sale this week. Though I love my place, I have been dreaming of inner city living for years — walking to work, biking to the grocery store, spending less time driving and more time enjoying life.

Listing my property was the easy part. But, my nerves are keeping me up at night. Will my property sell? Can I afford a more expensive home? To reduce my anxiety, I've adopted frugal home-buying basics.

First, buying an affordable home starts with knowing what your budget can handle. I spent three hours last Monday running various budget scenarios addressing monthly mortgage payments, property taxes and more. Using an online banking calculator, I determined the maximum home value I can afford within my desired budget.

I sat down with my mortgage broker on Wednesday to get a pre-approved mortgage. Surprisingly, I was approved for over one hundred thousand dollars more than what I thought I could afford. But, I'm going to stick with my original budget and avoid home poverty.

Frugal home buying basics can help you avoid home poverty. ISTOCK IMAGES

On Thursday I started researching mortgage rates for two reasons; first was to fine-tune my budget calculations and second was to prepare myself for an imminent interest rate negotiation when I'm ready to formalize a mortgage. Current mortgage rates are historically low, making payments more affordable.

Friday was the first day I looked at new properties and the day my existing home became available for showings to potential buyers. Though I didn't find my dream home, nor did my house sell, I found it valuable to see what's available in the market.

Because of my moderate tolerance for risk, it's become clear to me throughout this weekend that my personal preference is to sell my existing home before I make an offer on a new one. That way I won't end up financially strapped; carrying two homes accidentally.

Getting organized and being frugal is calming my nerves and restoring my sleep.

Eyaa-Keen Healing Centre Inc.

Upcoming Events:

April 16, 2012	Memorial Teachings & Ceremony
April 20 - 24, 2012	5 Day Group Session
May 28 - June 1, 2012	Fasting Camp
July 6 - 15, 2012	10 Day Group Session

Eyaa-Keen's programs and services are designed to improve the well-being of Aboriginal people by addressing issues and strengthening their abilities to lead their own lives in a good way. Individual/Group sessions address the needs of those affected by mental health issues, trauma and loss including Family Violence, Victims of Crime and the Legacy of Indian Residential schools.

Eyaa-keen Healing Centre has been providing Behavioural Health Treatment and support services since 1999.

To register or for more information on the intake process, or on any of the services provided by Eyaa-keen, please call Rayne toll free at 1-877-423-4648 or (204) 783-2976 or email: contact@eyaa-keen.org

Eyaa-Keen is internationally accredited by CARF

Eyaa-Keen Healing Centre Inc.
Changing Ways. Changing Lives.

TESTING YOUR LIMITS

FINAL EXAMS CAN BE A TAXING TIME FOR STUDENTS

ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

Preparing for final exams is one of the most stressful times of a student's life, but studying smartly can improve your scores and lower your heart rate.

Nellie Perret, a learning skills counsellor at the University of Toronto's Academic Success Centre, says most high schools use modular exams, meaning you are only tested on what you have learned since the last test. But university and college exams are usually cumulative, meaning you have to dig back to the start of the course. You can't cram that much information into your head in the weeks before the exam.

Perret advises using cumulative reviews as you go so you know it cold when exam season rolls around.

Even if you are starting two weeks before the exam, you might still be able to pull it off. "Counterintuitively, start reviewing material you already know pretty well," she says. "That's what you can potentially ace."

Look at old exams or midterms to see what questions have appeared in the past. Meet with other students to brainstorm on key content areas in the course.

"The last thing they should do is try to learn new material. That's where they're going to be dealing with a limited memory space," she says. "The likelihood of their doing well on it is pretty slim."

Write that key information on an index card and stare at it until you go into the exam room. "And then write it down immediately, or otherwise it's gone," Perret says.

Sarah Bouchard, a fifth-year political science/religious studies student at Dalhousie University, says students are juggling a lot at the end of term.

"Students are trying to focus on their exams and final papers, but also setting up summer jobs or co-ops, and finding housing, among other things," she says. "The pressure to perform well at this time of year is at its peak."

She urges students to attend any review sessions the class holds, and then book a meeting with the professor. Bring questions and take notes.

"I know it can seem scary, especially for first-year students (and) especially if you've missed a lot of classes," Bouchard says. "But trust me, your professor wants to help you and is a gold mine of helpful information."

Practise writing your answers so your brain is used to synthesizing it on paper.

"And most of all, get a good night's sleep, eat properly, and exercise," she says. "These are not only stress-busting mechanisms, but they also get your brain going." *– Jon Tattrie*

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CONSIDER ROBERTSON

FOR A CAREER IN PHARMACY

ROBERTSON COLLEGE PHOTO

If you are a student who wants to pursue a rewarding career in the rapidly-growing field of pharmacy technicians, then consider Robertson College's accredited 38-week pharmacy technician program.

"The program is accredited through the Canadian council for accreditation of pharmacy programs (CCAPP) for a three-year term, as we move towards becoming a regulated industry and profession," says program co-ordinator Debra Chartier.

Graduates from Robertson's program go on to write the qualifying national exams by the pharmacy examining board of Canada (PEBC). The program also offers students a hands-on internship.

"Students are in class and have theory for eight months and then they get two weeks of practicum that includes both a retail and an institutional placement. We have a wide range of instructors, so students are not with the same instructor for the full eight months," explains Chartier.

Robertson College has a low student-teacher ratio, which enables it to provide the full attention that each student needs in order to get through the program successfully.

Chartier shares about receiving an email from a student who had some personal struggles at the beginning of the program. "We worked with him to ensure his success in the program and he is so thankful today to be in the position that he's currently in."

Robertson recently signed a training agreement with the University of Manitoba's faculty of pharmacy, where students will now spend a good portion of their time in the pharmacist dispensing and compounding labs, the same top-notch facility where the pharmacists are trained.

BUILD A FUTURE WITH YOUR HANDS

WELLINGTON HAS DEDICATED ITSELF TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF MASSAGE THERAPY

Do you desire a meaningful career that allows you to improve the quality of life for those you work with?

Do you wish to see the world while earning money doing something you love?

Do you see yourself working in a calm and relaxing atmosphere creating an environment for people to unwind and enjoy the slow pace of life?

Wellington College offers you an exceptional education in massage therapy. Its mission is to cultivate professional individuals skilled in therapeutic massage and its supporting modalities, while fostering a supportive and progressive environment. It has had a long and highly respected history of training in Remedial Massage Therapy, being one of the oldest schools for massage in Canada and having its roots grounded in Britain's oldest massage therapy school.

With two floors of modern and professional classroom environments, the college is ever-changing to provide up-to-date methods of technology and learning. The facility offers a large lecture hall, three classrooms, a student clinic, library, and student lounge as well as a new space for Equip Massage, a massage therapy supply store on campus.

The college has dedicated itself to the advancement of massage therapy and manual therapies. The school pursues a scientific approach to massage based upon more than 75 years of history in osteopathic medicine, which requires a thorough understanding of the functions of the body and its anatomy.

There are two options for study: A two-year full-time program, and a three-year distance education option. They have also implemented a three-week practicum following the completion of the program for students to gain clinical experience and be mentored under current massage therapists. The desire to see their students succeed is driven by a supportive group of faculty and administrative staff that really care both during school and after.

ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

The college has monthly information sessions, which includes a presentation from a faculty member or the director himself, a tour and Q&A period. If you would like to learn more about the college, call 204-957-2402 to register or get more information.

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BUILD A FUTURE WITH YOUR HANDS
STUDY MASSAGE THERAPY

4 SPORTS

Lokomotiv tragedy

Russian club finds coach for rebuild

After becoming the new head coach of Lokomotiv Yaroslavl, Tom Rowe was intent on looking ahead to a bright future rather than focusing on the Russian team's tragic past. The 55-year-old American accepted the job with the rebuilding KHL team on Monday after spending more than a decade working in various roles for the Carolina Hurricanes organization. "It's a great opportunity for me," Rowe told The Canadian Press. "My family and I are very comfortable with it and looking forward to it." Lokomotiv is expected to rejoin the KHL next season after spending a year recovering from the September plane crash that killed 44 people, including the entire team and coaching staff. The job opportunity came with a phone call from former NHL executive Mike Smith, who is helping with the Lokomotiv's rebuilding efforts and wanted to see if Rowe would be interested in the position. He later went through an interview with team president Yury Yakovlev.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

Hockey Canada has hand-picked a talent-packed club full of NHL stars for next month's IIHF World Hockey Championship, but a certain 60-goal scorer has yet to confirm. Scan the code for the story.

Goodell upholds Saints penalties

NFL. Commissioner turns down appeal from New Orleans coach Payton

Roger Goodell sent a message to every coach and player in the NFL: Safety first. The league commissioner stuck with his punishments for New Orleans' pay-for-pain bounties on Monday, rejecting Saints coach Sean Payton's appeal of a season-long suspension.

An NFL investigation found that, under Payton's watch, an assistant ran a program offering cash payouts for hits that knocked targeted opponents out of games or hurt them so badly they needed help getting to the sideline.

Next on Goodell's agenda: Discipline for players involved in the bounty program that began in 2009, the season the Saints won the Super Bowl.

The Saints case represents perhaps the starkest example yet of the sea change that the NFL has undergone since medical research and media reports on the long-term damage suffered by football players through concussions began to gain attention.

As recently as October 2009, while testifying before Congress, Goodell did not acknowledge a link between head injuries on the field and brain diseases later in life. And hundreds of NFL retirees are now suing the league for health problems they say began with their playing careers.

Yet the league has taken a series of steps to better protect players in the past couple of years, and just last month expanded the definition of "defenceless players" who may not be hit in the head or neck and cannot be hit by someone leading with a helmet.

While NFL veterans say off-the-books incentives have been around for years, and some current players claim tough talk about hitting opponents where they are injured happens in locker-rooms throughout the league, Goodell responded to the Saints case by handing out unprecedented penalties.

In addition to upholding Payton's suspension, which begins next Monday and runs through the Super Bowl in February 2013 — by coincidence, in New Orleans — Goodell also affirmed suspensions of eight games for Saints general manager Mickey Loomis and six games for assistant head coach Joe Vitt. He also kept a $500,000 US fine for the franchise and loss of draft picks this year and next. Loomis, who along with the team declined comment Monday, and Vitt begin their suspensions after the pre-season ends.

The Saints have the not-so-small task of finding an interim coach to replace Payton. They have talked to Bill Parcells, Payton's mentor since their days together in Dallas, about coming out of retirement.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Further penalties?

Former defensive co-ordinator Gregg Williams, who left the Saints in January to join the St. Louis Rams, ran the bounty program and has been suspended indefinitely. He did not appeal.

- Suspensions for New Orleans players who participated in the bounty pool could be coming within days.

Blue Jays drop home opener in packed dome

Toronto starting pitcher Henderson Alvarez throws out the first pitch of the Blue Jays' home opener against the Boston Red Sox in Toronto on Monday night. The Jays led 2-1 in the ninth inning but closer Sergio Santos surrendered three runs and Toronto lost 4-2 to drop to 2-2 on the season. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL. Sedin returns to ice as Canucks prep for Kings

The Vancouver Canucks' leading goal-scorer Daniel Sedin returned to the ice Monday after missing nine games with a concussion.

Sedin led Vancouver with 30 goals before being elbowed by Duncan Keith in a 2-1 loss to Chicago on March 21. Keith was suspended five games for the hit.

Sedin was on the ice Monday before his teammates began their scheduled practice and remained with them, although there was no indication he would be ready for the Vancouver's first playoff game Wednesday against the Los Angeles Kings. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Daniel Sedin
DOUG PENSINGER/GETTY IMAGES FILE

NBA

Mavs put Odom on inactive list

The Dallas Mavericks and Lamar Odom are done with each other.

The reigning Sixth Man of the Year and the defending NBA champions who are trying to make sure they get back to the playoffs ended their partnership Monday after an underwhelming 50-games.

"We've got to be able to look down that bench and count on folks to be consistent," general manager Donnie Nelson said. "Unfortunately with him in his state right now, he's just not capable of doing that.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL. Scouting has Yakupov as the top pick

Sarnia Sting forward Nail Yakupov was listed as the top North American-based skater in the draft final rankings released by NHL central scouting Monday.

The 18-year-old from Nizhnekamsk, Russia, recorded 31 goals and 69 points in 42 games for the Ontario Hockey League's Sting during an injury-shortened 2011-12 season. Last season, he finished tied for fourth in the OHL with 101 points.

If Yakupov is picked first overall at the June 22 draft in Pittsburgh he would be the fifth OHL player selected No. 1 overall in the last six drafts, joining Patrick Kane (London, 2007), Steven Stamkos (Sarnia, 2008), John Tavares (London, 2009) and Taylor Hall (Windsor, 2010).

The top European-based skater is Swedish forward Filip Forsberg, who plays for Leksand in his country's domestic league.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Draft lottery

The draft lottery, a weighted system to determine the order of selection for the first 14 picks, will take place Tuesday night.

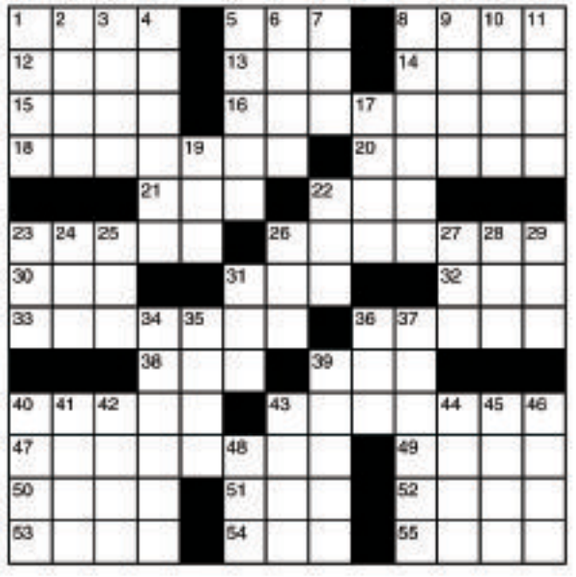
Crossword

Across

1 Charitable donations
5 Vacillate
8 Stylish
12 Castle protection
13 "Birds — feather ..."
14 Car
15 Gymnast Korbut
16 Shirk work
18 Greasy-spoon waitress, e.g.
20 Travelocity mascot
21 Buddhist sect
22 Lennon's lady
23 Hickory nut
26 Playboy
30 "That's relaxing"
31 Hasten
32 In olden days
33 Old washer attachment
36 Mountaineer's spike
38 Einstein's birthplace
39 Bart, to Homer
40 Remark to the audience
43 Brandy cocktail
47 TV slugfest host
49 Nastase of tennis
50 Calendar abbr.
51 Parisian pal
52 Dweeb
53 "Meet Me — Louis"
54 "Great Expectations" lad
55 Turns right

Down

1 Andy's pal
2 Lounge about
3 Creche trio
4 Verse
5 19th Amendment beneficiaries
6 Somewhere out there
7 Four qts.
8 Big gun
9 "Les Miserables" author
10 Couple, in a gossip column
11 Heart of the matter
17 "Aqua et — inter-dictus"
19 Army rank (Abbr.)
22 Have bills
23 Handle roughly
24 Listener
25 Greek X
26 Round Table address
27 Roscoe
28 Id counterpart
29 Director Howard
31 Height of fashion?
34 You can't pin anything on him!
35 Singer Campbell
36 Luau bowlful
37 Diamond period
39 Divest
40 Italian wine region
41 Twirled
42 Enrages
43 Big rig
44 Merriment
45 Green land
46 Cincinnati team
48 Space



Sudoku

							2	4
		9			5			
1		2	4		8			
3	7			6		5		9
			9		4			
4		8		1			3	6
			7		9	6		3
			6			8		
5	1							

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

7	2	5	6	1	4	9	8	3
4	3	8	5	7	9	2	1	6
1	9	6	2	8	3	4	7	5
2	5	3	8	4	6	1	9	7
8	1	7	9	3	5	6	2	4
6	4	9	1	2	7	5	3	8
5	8	2	7	6	1	3	4	9
3	6	1	4	9	8	7	5	2
9	7	4	3	5	2	8	6	1

Yesterday's Crossword

Cryptoquip

How to play

This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

F N W O S M Z B A W W R U W P
J B C N J Z N C F A B D K F ' T S I S O D W
U I D F N W S F F . O N T N W O N E E A S
E N E K S J U F A U W P J U M M S R .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU'RE PLANTING SOME CONIFEROUS TREES, IT'S POSSIBLE THAT YOU MIGHT BE A CEDAR SEEDER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals T

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Weather

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
MAX: 1° MIN: -11°	MAX: 6° MIN: -7°	MAX: 14° MIN: -2°

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

JENNA KHAN
WEATHER SPECIALIST
"Weather impacts everything we do. Providing the information you need before you head out that door and take on the day is the best part of my morning." **WEEKDAYS 6 AM**

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. Today is the ideal time to think about what you want to do with your life.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. Your rather reserved exterior masks a passionate heart and with Pluto, planet of passion, moving in your favour today you will surely find something to get worked up about.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. There is more to leadership than giving orders.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. Chances are you will be more assertive than normal today, and not everyone will be pleased with that fact.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. For some reason you appear to believe that others are ganging up on you. It's not true.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. Differences with partners and colleagues and family members have been rather intense of late, but with Pluto now moving in your favour again you will realize that most of them are simply not worth the worry.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. It may annoy you intensely that certain people are taking their time and dragging their feet but what can you do? Don't let your frustration show.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. You will be more open and approachable than usual.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. A colleague will make a proposal that is actually quite risky sound like the best offer you've ever had. Hopefully you won't fall for it.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. Pluto in your sign makes you ultra intense – but only be intense about the right things.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. Think hard before diving into a situation you know little about. You can't save everyone you know.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. There have been far too many lies and deceptions lately. Don't get fooled again. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption Contest

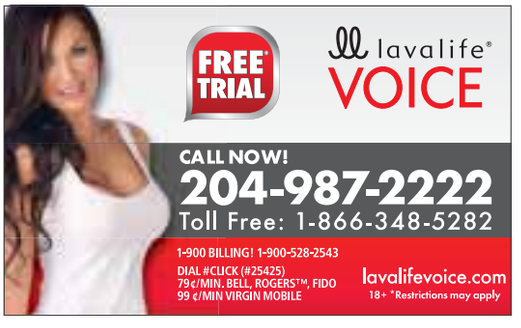
"101 Dalmatians have nothing on us."
Nancy

BASSEM TELLAWI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Win!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.



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